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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/701,214	11/04/2003	Anton Grate	M318	5160
7590	09/08/2004		EXAMINER	
Robert L. Marsh P.O. Box 4468 Wheaton, IL 60189-4468			DAVIS, CASSANDRA HOPE	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3611	

DATE MAILED: 09/08/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/701,214	GRATE ET AL. <i>MW</i>	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Cassandra Davis	3611	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 June 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) 5-7 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,3 and 8-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 2 and 4 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Group 4 in the reply filed on June 10, 2004 is acknowledged.
2. Claims 5-7 have been withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. Claims 1-4, 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
4. In claim 1, line 8, the phrase "the shape" lacks antecedent basis.
5. In claim 2, line 2, it is unclear if the "first retainer means" and "the second retainer means" are the same as the first retainer means and second retainer means, respectively, recited in claim 1.
6. In claim 3, line 2, the phrase "said plurality of first retainer means" lacks antecedent basis. In claim 1, one a single first retainer means is recited.
7. In claim 3, line 6, it is unclear if the forward surface is the same as the forward surface recite in claim 1.
8. In claim 4, line 2, the phrase "said plurality of second retainer means" lacks antecedent basis. In claim 1, one a single second retainer means is recited.

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9. In claim 4, line 6, it is unclear if the rearward surface is the same as the rearward surface recite in claim 1.
10. In claim 8, line 6, the phrase "the shape" lacks antecedent basis.
11. In claim 8, lines 8-9, the phrase "said means for abutting" lacks antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

12. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

13. Claims 1, 3, and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Imhofe, U. S. Patent 2,310,090. Imhofe teaches a sign comprising an enclosure having walls 6 and 7 and having an open front (not labeled). The walls having an inner surface, a rearward end and a forward end. The wall extending linearly without interruption from the rearward end to the forward end. Imhofe also teaches a planar transparent lens 8 having a forward surface, a rearward surface and an outer edge in the shape of said open front and sized to fit within the walls of the enclosure. The sign taught by Imhofe has a sealing means 9 attached around the outer edge of the transparent lens, a first retainer means 10 contacting the forward surface of the lens, a second retainer means (shoulder of wall) contacting the rearward surface of the lens, and a light source 14.

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14. With respect to claim 3 and 10, the retainer 10 has a surface for mounting/engaging the inner surface of the wall and a surface for mounting/engaging the forward surface of the lens.

15. With respect to claim 9, the sealing means 9 extend around the outer edge of the lens 8.

Allowable Subject Matter

16. Claims 2 and 4 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

17. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following patents are cited to show illuminated signs with seals: US-4,796,170, US-1,697,501, and FR-1,509,529.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cassandra Davis whose telephone number is 703-308-2223. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lesley Morris can be reached on 703-308-0629. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Cassandra Davis
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3611

CD
August 31, 2004